

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 11**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: APRIL 3, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: A swelling Red River of the North on April 3 reached flood stage at Wahpeton and Fargo. Five Red River and Sheyenne River Basin tributaries were also above flood stage. The most dramatic rise during the past 24 hours occurred on the Wild Rice, which rose 7.3 feet. The Souris River also was above flood stage at two locations. The status of these rivers and tributaries above flood stage are as follows:

<b>Station</b>	<b>Flood Stage April 3 Reading</b>		<b>Flood of Record</b>
<u>Red River</u>			
Wahpeton	10 ft.	10 ft.	18.5 ft.
Fargo	17 ft.	17.34 ft.	37.5 ft.
<u>Wild Rice</u>			
Abercrombie	10 ft.	12.08 ft.	24.6 ft.
<u>Maple River</u>			
Enderlin	6 ft.	12.8 ft.	15.4 ft.
<u>Goose River</u>			
Hillsboro	7 ft.	15.13 ft.	16.8 ft.
<u>Sheyenne River</u>			
Cooperstown 12 ft.		14.13 ft.	18.69 ft.
Lisbon	11 ft.	15.04 ft.	19 ft.
<u>Baldhill Creek</u>			
Dazey 10 ft.		11.23 ft.	17.78 ft.
<u>Souris River</u>			
Sherwood	18 ft.	19.21 ft.	25.15 ft.
Foxholm	10 ft.	12.27	17.71 ft.

In Sargent County, Milnor residents participated in a major flood fight late April 2 when a clogged drainage culvert backed up, affecting 45 homes in the northwest part of the city. Seven of those homes had water on the first floor. Evacuated residents were housed in private homes or a motel. The city's sewage system became overloaded, forcing officials to

pump out the system.

With the exception of Milnor, where damages are being assessed, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management has received 19 additional reports of eastern North Dakota families whose homes have either been isolated by rising waters or damaged by flood waters. The families are located in Barnes, Foster, LaMoure, McIntosh, Ransom, Sargent and Walsh Counties.

One of the seven families evacuating farmsteads in LaMoure County had successfully sandbagged their home. However, ground water pressure apparently collapsed part of a basement wall, and along with it, the sandbag dike. Flood waters then rushed into the house.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reports that flood waters are running over highways at the following locations: I-94, west of Casselton at the Ayr exchange, where the driving lane has been reopened; four sites along N.D. Highway 13, including the southern portion of Linton to Junction 13, the western edge of the city of LaMoure, west of Edgeley and east of Wishek; N.D. Highway 3, south of Ashley; N.D. Highway 34, near Gackle, which has been closed; N.D. Highway 56, south of Gackle; N.D. Highway 11, one mile east of Ellendale; and Apple Creek Road, which remains closed in the Bismarck area.

In Dickey County, water from a coulee inundated a hog farm near Ellendale. The animals were evacuated before flood waters reached the farm.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay has risen to 1,438.03 feet MSL, the highest recorded level in 130 years. Last summer, the lake peaked twice at 1,437.83 feet.

Spiritwood Lake continues to rise above its natural overflow elevation of 1,446.30 feet, but ice and snow may be preventing the lake from overflowing. N.D. State Water Commission survey crews are verifying the overflow elevation.

In Cass County, approximately 32 sites have water running over township and county roads. The majority are located in the northwest quadrant of the county, with a few in the Chaffee and Davenport areas.

Plugged culverts and ice jams have caused overland flooding in Traill County, where seven roads have been inundated, causing delays for emergency response vehicles. Homes threatened by flood waters are located in the Hillsboro and Mayville-Portland areas.

In the western part of the state, Ward County officials reported that ice in the Des Lacs River damaged four pilings from underneath a bridge located west of Burlington.

Flood warnings continue for Apple Creek in Burleigh County, although it continues to drop. The creek was recorded at 15.43 feet on April 3; flood stage is 15 feet.

#### 4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: in Wahpeton, North Dakota State College of Science staff will coordinate volunteers to support sandbagging operations. College officials have agreed to use a school building as a shelter for flood victims in both the Wahpeton and Breckenridge, Minn., areas. Food service staff will assist in preparing meals for evacuees.

The Salvation Army has established a Flood Relief Command Center in Fargo. Flood relief work along the Red River and its tributaries, from Wahpeton to Hillsboro, will be directed from the center. More than 500 meals have been served by April 1 to volunteers in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

The American Red Cross established 15 additional case files for flood victims in the Beulah-Hazen area, bringing the total case number to 152. Red Cross workers are assisting residents with repairs to their homes. The Red Cross has also provided meals to search and rescue workers in LaMoure County and to sandbaggers in Grafton, Minto and Grand Forks. The agency plans to provide meals by April 3 to sandbaggers in Barnes County.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Flood fight efforts continued April 3 in the city of Milnor, where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is on site providing technical assistance. Crews are working to open a culvert drain to reduce the amount of water that is spilling into a residential area. City workers have sandbagged manholes and a pumping station to prevent the city sewer system from backing up because of ground water infiltration. The city of Forman is operating pumps to keep ground water from infiltrating the water system.

Citing imminent flooding in the Red River Basin, Maj. Gen. Keith D. Bjerke, State Coordinating Officer, has requested that the St. Paul District of the USACE provide technical, manual and material assistance under the emergency operations portion of Public Law 84-99.

The USACE has begun work on a \$600,000 dike designed to protect the city of Grafton from flooding. Estimates are that \$12.5 million in damages could occur in Grafton without the dike. Federal, state and local officials have signed a project cooperative agreement.

Cass County officials report that a major diking project is underway to protect the city of Casselton from overland flooding. Plans call for using 50,000 sandbags to build a two-foot high dike to protect the school and nursing home. Workers are also constructing an earthen dike measuring 2,600 feet. The USACE is providing technical assistance.

Cass County Social Services staff members have worked with state and federal officials to establish guidelines and procedures for emergency food stamps and other assistance programs. A meeting has been scheduled for April 4 to review Individual and Family Assistance needs with task coordinators working with flood preparedness and response

efforts.

Three N.D. National Guard helicopter crews have dumped 8,926 60-pound sandbags as ice dusting efforts continue along a 38-mile stretch of the Red River. Operations on April 2 were staffed by 49 National Guard members, 26 of whom served as aviation support and 23 as ground support crew members. Weather permitting, ice dusting operations by the N.D. National Guard will resume April 3.

N.D. Highway Patrol troopers are continuing with their efforts to conduct traffic control for the National Guard's ice dusting project.

The U.S. Coast Guard has located three 14-foot boats with operating personnel at the Fargo Fire Department for possible use during flood emergency response.

The N.D. State Water Commission has supplied water pumps to Fort Lincoln State Park, where a camping site along the Heart River has been inundated.

A LaMoure County public health nurse will be in Edgeley and in LaMoure on April 9 to administer tetanus shots to county residents living in flooded areas.

The Pierce County Commission and the Traill County Commission have issued a flood disaster declaration. Officials for the cities of Ayr and Alice have signed emergency declarations. Since late February, 19 counties, 33 cities and one township have issued emergency declarations. Officials for 10 counties and three cities have signed disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

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Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director